

Floods meant busy time for Gloucestershire First team

The land and property advisory team at Gloucestershire First were extremely busy at the height of the flood crisis when some businesses found themselves unable to function in their existing premises.

A countywide alert for temporary business space was issued and answered within hours by many property owners. They included Vantage Point business village in the Forest of Dean, which offered flood-hit businesses reduced-price office space complete with internet and telephone services within 24 hours.

Angela Presdee (pictured) principal economic development officer at Gloucestershire First, who is helping to co-ordinate the flood relief scheme working alongside the RDA and Business Link, said the county coped well.

“Many companies called upon their employees to help them through the crisis and hundreds responded in a remarkable story of self-reliance in unprecedented circumstances.

“At the same time the £2 million Flood Relief Fund was launched by the RDA and a second fund was started by Gloucestershire Media with companies and individual donors raising thousands of pounds to help those worst affected.”

Away from the floods, Gloucestershire First’s annual report shows the number of enquiries it received for land or property was 530 this year compared to 272 last year. This property search service is an important one for the county - collating information from local authorities and commercial agents.

The partnership’s inward investment service attracted healthy national and international investor interest, together with inquiries from expanding local companies.

Newcomers to the county last year included Direct Wines at Gloucester Business Park, Quedgeley-based timber-frame manufacturer Prestoplan and the CKS Group, which is developing a recycling plant in Cinderford. Collectively these companies brought 500 new jobs to the county.

For further information on the Gloucestershire First property search service go to www.glosfirst.co.uk

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