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Phil Burkhard  
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council  
Civic Centre  
Castle Street  
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CF47 8AN

Dear Phil

## **Heads of the Valleys Innovation Programme (HOVIP) Manager**

My introduction to HOVIP began with a seminar held to look at how the significant investments in the region can deliver actual regeneration. The phrase "the embedded pound" was used to emphasise the importance of the goods and services being supplied locally.

This message is even more important in the current economic climate, the question of how to capture and keep the money circulating in the region is the obvious key to this philosophy.

As we are the largest multi-discipline consultant in Wales and the Joint Venture partner of the seven local authorities that make up the HOV area, we felt it was important to play a part in the HOVIP programme to assist businesses in the region.

Through networking events I have met and then visited a number of businesses throughout the region and where appropriate I have ensured that these businesses are given bid opportunities on projects or elements of projects that we are delivering for our local authority partners,

The opportunity to network with other members of the delivery chain is essential for all businesses; this is a key role for HOVIP and there will be a detrimental effect on these businesses should HOVIP disappear.

Yours sincerely



**David Price**  
**Associate**