

NEWS RELEASE

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A new project that will change the way Torfaen, Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent councils dispose of food waste has entered its next phase.

The Heads of the Valleys Organics Project aims to identify a suitable company to form a long term contract to deal with food and green waste from the three authorities.

The 'Invitation to Submit Detailed Solutions' stage of the procurement process has just been completed.

Three participants submitted detailed solutions which were evaluated. The two highest scoring participants have been selected and invited through to the 'Invitation to Submit Final Tenders' stage of the procurement process.

The two highest scoring participants were Shanks Waste Management Limited and Viridor Waste Management Limited.

These participants are now invited through to the 'Final Tenders' stage of the procurement process which will begin in the next couple of weeks and come to an end this summer.

The councils aim to reach the preferred bidder stage in September 2012 – at this stage they will know the sites and technologies to be used.

Caerphilly Councillor Colin Mann, Chairman of the Joint Committee, said: "The project has undertaken a broad evaluation of the solutions received.

"This included the technical solution, service delivery, environmental impacts and planning and permitting of their solution.

"It is important that we ensure the remaining participants are able to meet the requirements of the Authorities, achieve the relevant Environment Agency standards and assist in meeting the targets set out by the Welsh Government."

The procurement is being undertaken via competitive dialogue procedure in three stages which are: Invitation to Submit Outline Solutions (ISOS), Invitation to Submit Detailed Solutions (ISDS) and Call for Final Tenders (CFT). The project has now completed the Outline and Detailed Solutions stages of the procurement process.

For information on the project please visit <u>www.hovwasteprogramme.org.uk</u>