

## Decommissioning and community engagement

When decommissioning a scheme, it is vital to consider effective social engagement and provision of information.

Consider the following points:

### Provision of information:

It is vital to provide information to communities to inform clearly and transparently. Local people will wish to know any changes to their area, and the timescales of when these may occur.

### Engagement:

There may be opportunity for communities to provide opinions on the development – do they like the project? Are there some turbines which are preferred to others? Collect feedback from local people where possible and where you can use their comments.

If you are restoring the site to its original state, collect opinions from local people on what they might like to see – are there simple actions you can undertake which would have a positive impact on the local area?

### Repowering:

Is there scope for repowering and redevelopment of the project? Is innovative financing and community participation an option? Begin discussions at an early stage and explore opportunities for community involvement where possible.

At the decommissioning phase, it is still extremely important to treat local people with respect and openness. The public opinion of the wind project, and the wider renewable energy industry can be influenced by good or bad practice at this stage.

You can use the measures in the We-Engage toolkit to begin to build a social engagement strategy for successful decommissioning