Annex I – why acquisition of the land at the Slip in Achnamara will ensure the sustainable development of the Achnamara community.

Sustainable development of a community is defined by the Academy for Sustainable Communities as places where people want to live and work, now and in the future.

Communities should work together to ensure

- **Improved quality of life** for residents
- Long term **resilience** of the community – ensuring residents can stay and thrive and the population grows appropriately
- Environmental **stewardship** of assets in the community
- Economic resilience and vitality of the community, building and **retaining local wealth** from local assets
- Social equity and **inclusion**
- Opportunities for active citizen **participation**

Communities should look to develop in ways that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Under the ACT SCIO Constitution, our purposes and powers ensure the following:

The management of community land and associated assets for the benefit of the Community and the public in general as an important part of the protection and sustainable development of Scotland's natural environment, where "sustainable development" means development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'

The acquisition of the Slip at Achnamara helps deliver these purposes. It will further the sustainable development of the Achnamara community in the following detailed ways. Further information on these individual areas of development can be found in the Business Plan and Appendices at Annex H to this application

Social development

The acquisition and development will create a space for local people to come together to hold events such as our Summer BBQ and New Year swim, support groups such as the community rowing club and the wild swimming club to function safely and the Achnamara Moorings Association to launch and store boats. In the longer term residents will be able to use the communal sauna that is planned for the site, and the changing hut for swimmers, cyclists, kayakers and boat owners. Development will also incorporate safe access and seating spaces for the elderly and places for children and young people to come to enjoy the outdoors.

Economic development

The Business Plan sets out how the site will be developed to create a number of small income streams that will contribute to the economic resilience of the community, allowing it to

continue to fund local activities and events in the way it does now via income from the Village Hall. In the longer term other income generating activities such as camper van parking may be considered subject to community consent. The site will certainly create sufficient income to cover its ongoing costs and provide a sinking fund for maintenance.

Developing this site, which is currently an eyesore with abandoned boats and equipment, will also help improve the general attraction of Achnamara, demonstrate the resilience and vitality of the community and hopefully secure further long term capital investment for the benefit of the community.

Environmental development

The site is not currently managed and contains several abandoned boats and equipment which can cause an environmental nuisance. Ownership and management of the site by the community will ensure all waste and potential pollution is properly managed and that equipment and assets brought to the site are properly and safely managed and maintained.

Upon purchase the site will be strimmed, all rubbish removed and appropriate native planting introduced. This will all be undertaken by active members of the community and Moorings Association. The site is currently an eyesore but will become a valuable attraction for the community with waterside safe seating and safe access to the water. Equipment on the site will be properly and safely managed and stored. The Slip which is currently in poor condition will be renovated again improving appearance, utility and safety.

Community inclusion

The project to acquire and develop the Slip site was identified as the number 1 priority for the community in our recent survey, now highlighted in our Community Action Plan (included as an Appendix to the Business Plan.) ACT SCIO undertook a lengthy community survey to identify community priorities and have used this data to develop our Work Plan. Since the survey we have had several events at the Slip site and the Hall to confirm ongoing support for the project. This support was underlined by the excellent ballot turnout and 80% approval to the project.

Health and wellbeing

Ensuring permanent safe and secure access to Loch Sween will contribute hugely to the health and wellbeing of our community. This will be via the safe enablement of the various clubs that use the Loch, as detailed above. It will allow safe family and disabled access to the loch shore which is rare on Loch Sween and certainly around the village where there is no public safe access to the waterside. We have recently been successful in attracting several new families with young children to the village – reversing the aging demography of our community. Providing safe water access for children is important. It will encourage more residents to get out in nature, bring their family to this safe lochside location, come together for community events and provide easy access for our elderly neighbours to come down to the loch. All ages will be able to safely enjoy the site and what it offers.

In conclusion – this may be only a relatively small site but community ownership and development will have a significant positive benefit for our village and residents.