

Project 7 & 8 Barcaldine Access Improvements / O&M Investments

Original Proposal –Improved access to MRC Barcaldine, including a new junction and connections to two adjacent development sites identified in the Local Development Plan. Delivering a dedicated and much improved access to three key sites around the Barcaldine area would enable reconfiguration of the MRC Barcaldine site and provide access to two sites identified in the Local Plan. The new junction would be implemented as a ghost island junction with associated signage, gateway and landscaping improvements.

Projects total £0.4m and £3.75m.

What Has Been Done – Through the intervention of private sector investment, and with the sale of the Barcaldine site, Projects 7 and 8, totalling £4.15m are now no longer required, and removed from the TIF programme. Scottish Sea Farms, will invest £35m to create a new freshwater hatchery which will be used to rear young salmon, or smolts, in bio-secure and environmentally friendly conditions, with the potential of 25 new permanent skilled jobs created.

Next Steps - Aquaculture (in particular seaweed harvesting and processing) is currently viewed as a key potential growth sector for Argyll & Bute, with significant potential to create economic value and jobs for the area. Whilst there is a desire to facilitate/ enable development of the aquaculture sector in North Lorn, there are currently no specific development opportunities or sites identified. Opportunities are expected to present themselves over time as this sector grows, and therefore, there may be a role for the Council in terms of site enablement in due course.