JS7 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES
Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors David Carpenter, Jayne Hewlett, and Jennifer Jordan. The Committee was advised of a substitution as detailed above.

JS8 – LOCAL CODE OF CONDUCT- DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS
There were no disclosures of interest.

JS9 – CORPORATE PLAN LEADER’S ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014
The Leader of the Council introduced his Annual Report, which reviewed the Council’s performance in 2013-14 and outlined activities planned for 2014-15. The Leader summarised the Council’s achievements and plans under five themes: Infrastructure, Economy, Development, Sustainability, and Society. The Committee was also informed of developments to the Council, including improvements to customer services and changes to the management structure.

In addition to the activities detailed within the report, the Committee was advised that the Onslow Park and Ride was anticipated to be fully utilised by the end of the current financial year. The Committee was also advised that the yield from the Council’s property portfolio would contribute to offsetting potential future budget deficits.
Question topics from Committee members included:

- Council Tax.
- GLADE (Guildford Learning and Development Enterprise).
- The A3.
- Slyfield Area Regeneration Project (SARP).
- Thames Water sewage works at Slyfield.
- New school locations.
- The community grants scheme.
- The location of a further park and ride site.

In relation to the nuisance to residents from the Thames Water sewage works at Slyfield, the Leader indicated he and the Deputy Leader of Surrey County Council would be meeting the Chief Executive of Thames Water to progress such issues.

Members raised a number of detailed questions that the Leader undertook to ensure the Lead Councillors provided answers to:

- The incentives to promote Onslow Park and Ride, planned fare subsidies, and current signage to the site.
- The details of the “transformational improvements” for the A3 alluded to in the Leader’s Report. The possible value of speed cameras on the A3 to slow traffic, reduce accidents, and ease congestion.
- Exploration of Shop and Collect or Shop and Stay as part of the Visitor Strategy.
- Effort to keep local councillors updated about SARP so they can, in turn, advise residents.
- Delay to the development of the Council’s Public Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- The governance arrangements for overseeing the work of Guildford Health and Wellbeing Board.
- Review of the community grant scheme, particularly, the effect of the scheme on arts-based groups and events.
- Future targets for bringing empty homes back into use.
- Limitations on the Green Deal service.
- Plans for further hydro-electric schemes on the River Wey.
- The costs of Wild Wood Aerial Adventure course for local residents.
Members identified possible topics for future scrutiny – the Council’s asset and property portfolio and its management, governance of the local Health and Wellbeing Board, and development of the Council’s Public Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The Committee was advised the topics would be considered at the next scrutiny agenda setting meeting [on 14 July 2014]. The Committee was advised that a review of the community grant scheme was part of the work programme of the Customer and Community Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee,

RESOLVED: That the Leader’s Annual Report be noted.

Chairman, Corporate Improvement Scrutiny Committee
31 July 2014

Chairman, Customer and Community Scrutiny Committee
15 July 2014