

### **OSC Cooption of Third Sector Representative**

OSC is being asked to consider the time-limited cooption of a non-voting representative from the third sector. The co-option would be for the two meetings OSC has that focus on the draft budget proposals – the December 2010 and January 2011 meetings.

Scrutiny committees and panels already benefit from the co-opted of members from external organisations, for example members of the Older People's Council and Local Involvement Network (LINK) sit on HOSC. ASCHOSC has a LINK representative and CYPOSC has members of the Youth Council, third sector members and representatives of the two diocese.

Additionally Professor Gordon MacKerron from the University of Sussex chaired the recent scrutiny panel on Climate Change Adaptation and a number of other panels have benefited from co-option from various organisations.

Co-opted members provide scrutiny with additional viewpoints from which issues can be scrutinised; a mouth-piece if you will, through which the views of a sector can be channelled.

This cooption would be for the purpose of ensuring strong third sector input into the scrutiny of the draft budget proposals. The council's budget has major implications for the third sector in the city; allowing its direct input into the scrutiny process will provide a more robust critical friend challenge and allow for greater understanding of the implications of the budget.

Cooption would also tie in with moves towards the intelligent commissioning model which will require a more holistic and dynamic relationship with the third sector.

Cooption of this nature will also progress the agreed aim that scrutiny should seek to foster relationships with key partners in the city and increase its external focus.

