



**Mr Neil Porteus, BSc (Hons) FCPFA  
Chair of the Board of Directors of the Constellation Trust**

Neil Porteus studied Pure Mathematics at the University of Hull, graduating in 1991 and then studying at the Leeds Business School of Leeds Metropolitan University to become a Chartered Public Finance Accountant which he achieved in 1995. Neil has graduated to become a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy.

Neil joined Kingston upon Hull City Council in 1991 and was promoted rapidly through the organisation to the role of Group Technical Accountant, being responsible for the treasury management and capital programme of the Council, managing a £250m debt portfolio, a £30m investment portfolio, a £20m leasing portfolio and a capital programme of £40m per year. Within this role, Neil helped secure over £50m for the establishment of The Deep, an aquarium-based visitor attraction in Hull which is a registered charity concerned with education, the conservation of marine wildlife, research into the marine environment and the wider regeneration of Hull. Since opening in 2002, The Deep has welcomed more than 6m visitors through its doors, having proven itself as the most successful Millennium Commission lottery-funded project in the country. Having being instrumental in its development, Neil was the ideal appointment to its post of Finance Director, with responsibility for all financial, legal and governance aspects of the charity.

Neil is passionate about improving the life chances of the young people of Hull, having been a school/college governor for more than 15 years. As the Chair of Governors, Neil led a primary school from being placed in special measures by OFSTED to being rated as outstanding; a secondary school from being rated as satisfactory to being what is now an outstanding academy; and an academy from being placed in special measures by OFSTED to being rated as good with outstanding leadership and management, all within very tight timescales. Neil was a Governor of a Further Education College for 9 years (2004-12), being Vice Chair for much of that time, with the College rated as outstanding in all areas in 2008. Neil's experience in terms of strong governance and delivery has come from all of these roles.

Neil is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Freedom Festival Arts Trust. The Freedom Festival has become an annual event in Hull celebrating the abolition of the slave trade. The Festival started in 2007 which was the bicentenary of the passing of the Slave Trade Act in 1807, a campaign which had been led by Hull-born MP William Wilberforce.