



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

Neil is a chartered accountant who was instrumental in the development of The Deep, an aquarium-based visitor attraction in Hull which is governed by a registered charity. In a book on the project, Neil was described as having had “as big an impact on the project as anyone”. Since opening in 2002, The Deep has welcomed almost 9m visitors through its doors, having proven itself as the most successful Millennium Commission lottery-funded project in the country.

Neil came to Hull in the late 1980’s to study Pure Mathematics at the University of Hull and then studied at the Leeds Business School of Leeds Metropolitan University to become a Chartered Public Finance Accountant.

Having taken the City to his heart, Neil decided to make his life in Hull after graduating, joining Hull City Council in the early 1990’s 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. Within this role, Neil had the lead financial role in securing over £50m of funding for the establishment of The Deep and remains its Finance Director to this day.

Neil is passionate about improving the life chances of the young people of Hull, having been a school/college governor for more than 20 years. As the Chair of Governors, Neil led a primary school from being placed in special measures by OFSTED to being rated as outstanding; and led an academy rated as requiring improvement to being good with outstanding leadership and management; and helped a secondary school move from being rated as satisfactory to outstanding. Neil was a Governor of a Further Education College for 9 years (2004-2012), 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.

Neil is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy, a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematics & its Applications, a Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians and a member of the European Mechanics Society.