

To consider motion in the name of Councillor Chapman:

“That Professor Nathu Puri, being a person of distinction within the meaning of the Local Government Act 1972, be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the City of Nottingham.

That a Certificate of Admission, in a suitable casket, be presented to Professor Nathu Puri at a presentation ceremony immediately after the appointment on 9 July 2012.”

Professor Nathu R Puri

Nathu Ram Puri, Nat, was born in 1939 in Mullan Pur, a village in Punjab, just outside Chandigarh, India. He is married, with one son and has lived in Nottingham, since 1967.

Nat came to UK in 1966 to study Air Conditioning and received his Diploma from the National College for Heating, Ventilation, Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Fan Engineering, now part of the Department of Engineering of the London South Bank University. He joined FG Skerritt Limited in August, 1967 to gain practical experience.

After returning to India in early 1969, he came back to Nottingham after 6 months on receiving an attractive offer from his ex employer, F G Skerritt Ltd.

Nat left Skerritts again in 1975 to set up on his own consultancy but after 8 years, in January 1983 he returned to buy the company he had first worked for. It was the start of his acquisition spree and the birth of first Melton Medes and now the Purico Group of Companies.

His businesses are based in UK, USA, Germany, China, Mexico, Hungary and Russia. Before the recent sale of some of his US interests these businesses employed over 7500 people mainly in manufacturing

His manufacturing interests are in niche areas as can be surmised from;

1. The only major manufacturer of “under the bonnet” Blow Moulded Parts for the Automotive Industry, supplying all major manufacturers in UK
2. 2nd largest manufacturer of chrome plated parts for Auto Industry in the world, with the single largest operation in the world.
3. 2nd largest manufacturer of Tea and Coffee papers in the world
4. One of only two manufacturers in the world producing Sausage Casing papers.

Nat set up The Puri Foundation, a charitable trust in 1988 and The Three R's Education Trust in 2006 with donations averaging over £500,000 a year to good causes since then. He is keen to support education at all levels, including funding 700 “one teacher” schools in Nepal. He has helped many schools in Nottingham with equipment and

financial support, 5 of whom were helped to obtain Technology College Status.

In addition the Indian Institute of Advance Research (IIAR), Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat, India, (a project of the Puri Foundation) was opened by the President of India Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam on 28th April, 2006. Prof. Puri has provided funds through The Puri Foundation to set up Scholarships at Nottingham University, Nottingham Trent University, London South Bank University and with the Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme.

In July, 2011 he gave £1.0million to **London South Bank University** to set up **Nathu Puri Institute of Engineering and Enterprise**, which was inaugurated by Rt Hon Vince Cable in the presence of Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke

In the past he was the founder Chairman of Princes Youth Business Trust in Nottinghamshire, member Nottingham Development Enterprise, member and deputy Chairman Greater Nottingham Training and Enterprise Council, President of Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club, member of the Council of the Nottingham University and its Finance and General Purpose Committee.

He was given Honorary Degree of Doctor of Engineering by London South Bank University in 2008 and Doctor of Laws by Nottingham University in 2010.

He has received many other awards including having a “roundabout” named after him in Diepersdorf, in the County of Nurnberg, Germany and being awarded Freedom of the town of Markt Schonberg in Bavaria Germany

In his spare time he is involved in various voluntary and charitable projects.