



Cllr Shahed Ali

Place of Residence: **London**

Sector: **Politics and Cultural Activities**

Shahed Ali was born in the east end of London in 1970. He went to Sir John Cass Foundation school in Stepney in the London borough of Tower Hamlets. After completing his schooling, Cllr Ali studied a BSc in Social Policy and Management at London Guildhall University.

He has one older brother and one younger sister. His father is Late Haji Wahab Ullah, and his mother is Somirtha Khanom. They originate from village: Barkat Pur, P.O: Gohor Pur, P.S: Balagonj, Dist: Sylhet, Bangladesh.

The area of Tower Hamlets is one that Cllr Ali has a great affinity for. He was born in the borough, and since May 2006, he has been a member of Tower Hamlets council for the ward of Whitechapel.

Away from politics, Cllr Ali is well known throughout the Bangladeshi community for his event organising. His reputation for staging shows with amazing visual and aural effects, otherwise known as 'Ekti Shahed Ali Upohaar', have enabled him to hold unique events at prestigious venues such as the London Arena, Wembley Arena and the Royal Festival Hall. He founded the annual Bangladesh International Media Awards (BIMA), an event to give recognition to the film, television and music industry, which is broadcast live around the world via several television networks. He has also produced several Television Dramas and has become a household name and very much respected by all celebrity artists of Bangladesh.

Cllr Ali also holds the honour of being the first Asian person to organise an event at Historic Royal Palaces – The Tower of London. That event, held in July 2007,



proved to be extremely popular as Cllr Ali, ever the shrewd entrepreneur, brought over the 2006 finalists of NTV Close Up such as Salma, Nishita, Ronti and Muhin.

Previous to being a councillor, Cllr Ali was a youth worker, an ethnic arts adviser and a social worker amongst other things. By having such a varied professional background, it is easy to see why Cllr Ali has been such a success in the field of local politics, although even this does not present the full picture, as he has been a strong vocal point on issues that affect the British Bangladeshi community. He believes he is not an opportunist or career politician, but a challenging voice from the community, for the community.

Away from his life as a councillor and events organiser, Cllr Ali has a number of business interests including the popular Brick Lane music and book shop Sangeeta Ltd, a restaurant in Frinton-on-Sea and a property portfolio.