



Cllr Ayesha Chowdhury Raki

Place of Residence: **London**

Sector: **Politics**

Cllr Chowdhury arrived in Britain with her parents at the age of 16. Besides learning English, she helped her father with his community work. Even at the tender age of 16 she felt that women should be able to excel in areas that have been traditionally dominated by the opposite sex. Therefore in 1991 she found herself taking a course in Construction, at Newham Community College, she completed the Diploma sometime in 1993.

Cllr Ayesha Chowdhury then realised the needs of the community and the importance of those needs to society. As a result she enrolled at Goldsmiths College, University of London to study Youth, Community and Social work, eventually finishing university in 2002 with a Masters Degree in Applied Anthropology, Youth & Community Work. Whilst studying she was also working and therefore earning money and gaining valuable experience. Cllr Chowdhury soon after began to recognise that whatever she did she was limited by the confines of policy. Therefore she felt that the decision-making process had to be influenced if real change was to be attempted. As a result of this she



got involved with politics.

Outside her role as a councillor in Newham, Ayesha Chowdhury is a successful businesswoman. She is a property developer and also Director of London Green Management Company Ltd. She has previously worked as a Centre Manager in Newham, a Social Worker for Tower Hamlets and has co-ordinated projects in different boroughs. Aside from politics and business, she is also committed to various local, national and transnational organisations. She has been heavily involved in fundraising activities in the UK to support various rural areas across the globe.

Her participation in community initiatives consist of being in the consultative committee of London City Airport. She retains membership in

the Newham Community Police Forum and School Organisation committee. Other past and present commitments include being a committee member of Beckton Community Forum, Building Schools for Future and Mayoral Advisor. Amongst her most prestigious voluntary association she is a committee member for two Scrutiny Commission for Community Cohesion and Child Poverty, two integral issues which society faces in the present climate.

Cllr Chowdhury is a family woman; she is married with two children. Her interests include Human Rights, politics as well as environmental and social issues. She is fluent in several languages including Bengali, English, Urdu, Hindi and is currently maintaining her interest in foreign languages by learning a European language.

Cllr Ayesha has been able to maintain a healthy balance between politics, business and her community work. She is an individual who is extremely flexible and able to keep her priorities intact, and this has significantly contributed to her success and achievements.