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Labour's Abbas on Tower Hamlets result

Following the declaration of the result of the election for the first directly elected Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Labour's candidate Helal Abbas said:

"This is a sad night for those of us who want to build a better future and a united Tower Hamlets.

"Lutfur Rahman has won tonight but not as he wanted, as the Labour candidate.

"Thankfully, Labour's ruling National Executive had the backbone to stop him from being the Labour candidate.

"We may have lost tonight, but at least the Labour Party has clean hands.

"I am proud that we fought a clean, decent campaign and refused to get in the gutter with the candidate backed by George Galloway and the so-called Respect Party.

"I promise to carry on working tirelessly as an elected councillor for the people of Tower Hamlets.

"And as the party with the largest number of councillors at Tower Hamlets Town Hall, Labour accepts our responsibility to work hard to hold the new Mayor to account and to stand up for ALL the communities of Tower Hamlets, not just one.

"We will not let the people of Tower Hamlets down."

Ends

Result:

Independent 23,283

Labour 11,254

Conservative 5,348

LibDem 2,800

Green 2,300