

## PRESS RELEASE

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**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

**Immediate Release**

**Attention: News Desks, Industrial and Political Correspondents**

### **SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HAD EAST MIDLAND'S DIRTIEST STREETS: SOUTH HOLLAND HAD REGION'S CLEANEST STREETS**

**Councillors should be clear that for street cleaning, as for other public services, "you get what you pay for" GMB Congress in Southport is told**

The East Midlands' dirtiest streets were in South Northamptonshire while the cleanest were in South Holland according to the latest available official figures from the Audit Commission. The figures are contained in a regional league table, set out below, which was compiled by GMB and was published today at the GMB Congress in Southport. (See Note 1 below for details on GMB Congress).

In South Northamptonshire **43%** of relevant land and highways assessed had deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level while **7%** also had unacceptable levels of litter. (See Note 2 below on definitions and standards). Next in the league were Oadby and Wigston where **32%** of relevant land and highways assessed had deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level. **13%** of streets in Oadby and Wigston also had unacceptable levels of litter.

South Holland had the cleanest streets in the region. 1% of relevant land and highways assessed in South Holland had deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level while there were no streets with unacceptable levels of litter.

For all 345 councils in England 12% of relevant land and highways assessed had deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level while 5% had unacceptable levels of litter. 15 councils in the region had streets dirtier than the national average. 22% of Northampton streets were dirty and as were 17% in those in Derby.

The figures for each of the 39 East Midlands councils for 2008/09 are shown in the table below. (See Note 3 for sources).

#### **LEAGUE TABLE ON CLEAN STREETS FOR 39 COUNCILS IN THE EAST MIDLANDS**

Rank		<b>The % of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level</b>	<b>The % of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of litter that fall below an acceptable level</b>
	England	12	5
1	South Northamptonshire DC	43	7

2	Oadby & Wigston DC	32	13
3	Daventry DC	30	3
4	Wellingborough DC	29	17
5	Melton DC	27	12
6	Northampton DC	22	11
7	South Derbyshire DC	22	5
8	Bolsover DC	21	11
9	Derby UA	17	5
10	Harborough DC	16	1
11	North West Leicestershire DC	15	5
12	Charnwood DC	15	2
13	Hinckley & Bosworth DC	15	2
14	Amber Valley DC	14	10
15	Leicester UA	13	9
16	East Northamptonshire DC	11	2
17	Mansfield DC	10	9
18	Derbyshire Dales DC	10	3
19	North East Derbyshire DC	9	2
20	Blaby DC	9	1
21	North Kesteven DC	8	11
22	East Lindsey DC	8	5
23	Gedling DC	8	5
24	Ashfield DC	7	5
25	Chesterfield DC	7	3
26	Boston DC	7	2
27	High Peak DC	6	4
28	West Lindsey DC	6	2
29	Newark & Sherwood DC	5	10
30	Rushcliffe DC	5	3
31	Kettering DC	5	2
32	Nottingham UA	4	8
33	Lincoln DC	4	7
34	Bassetlaw DC	4	2
35	Corby DC	4	1
36	Broxtowe DC	3	5
37	South Kesteven DC	3	2
38	Erewash DC	1	4
39	South Holland DC	1	0

Andy Worth, GMB Regional Secretary speaking at Southport said **“There is an alarmingly high and dangerous level of dirty streets and pavements in far too many places. On average the 12% of streets that are officially classified as unacceptable is bad enough but there are 15 councils in this region that have a higher proportion than that which is totally unacceptable.**

**Local communities deserve clean and healthy environments. GMB know that clean streets are perfectly feasible everywhere, it’s just a matter of ensuring there are enough properly trained and equipped street cleaners employed to do the job.**

**Councillors should be clear that for street cleaning, as for other public services, you get what you pay for. The next thing that failed politicians may come out with is that people, as well as paying their council tax, should clean the streets themselves.”**

End

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## Notes to Editors:

1 GMB Congress 2010, which comprises up to 1,000 delegates and workplace representatives from all over the UK, is being held at the Floral Hall Southport Convention Centre from Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June to Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June. GMB is Britain's third largest union with 611,000 members who work in every industry in the UK economy. You can watch GMB Congress 2010 Live on GMB Congress TV at [www.gmb.org.uk/congresstv](http://www.gmb.org.uk/congresstv)

## 2 Definitions and standards

1) Detritus comprises dust, mud, soil, grit, gravel, stones, rotted leaf and vegetable residues, and fragments of twigs, glass, plastic and other finely divided materials. Detritus includes leaf and blossom falls when they have substantially lost their structure and have become mushy or fragmented. A significant and avoidable source of detritus is uncollected grass cuttings that have started to decompose.

2) Litter includes mainly synthetic materials, often associated with smoking, eating and drinking, that are improperly discarded and left by members of the public; or are spilt during waste management operations. Litter may also include putrescible or clinical wastes, or faeces such as dog, bird and other animal faeces.

3) How relevant land and highways is assessed and what are the levels of detritus and litter that fall below an acceptable level is set out in website <http://cleanliness-indicator.defra.gov.uk/>

3 Source: The league table was compiled by GMB from the National Indicators 2008-2009 for which the source is the Audit Commission and the data is from National Indicator Set 195a & b Improved street and environmental cleanliness.