

PRESS RELEASE

1 of 3 pages

Monday 7th June 2010

Immediate Release

Attention: News Desks, Industrial and Political Correspondents

MERTON HAD LONDON'S DIRTIEST STREETS: KENSINGTON & CHELSEA HAD LONDON'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

London's dirtiest streets were in the Borough of Merton while the cleanest were in the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea 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 Merton **49%** of relevant land and highways assessed had deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level while **21%** also had unacceptable levels of litter. (See Note 2 below on definitions and standards). Next in the league was the Borough of Hounslow where **44%** of relevant land and highways assessed had deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level. **15%** of streets in Hounslow and **24%** in Bromley, also had unacceptable levels of litter.

Kensington & Chelsea had the cleanest streets in the capital with no relevant land and highways assessed in as having deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level and 2% of streets with litter below an acceptable level.

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. 22 London boroughs had streets dirtier than the national average. The figures for unacceptable levels of detritus were Waltham Forest 33%, Redbridge 32%, Hillingdon 31%, Ealing 25%, Harrow 23%, Haringey 22% and Wandsworth and Sutton 21%.

The figures for each of the 33 London Boroughs for 2008/09 are shown in the table below. (See Note 3 for sources).

LEAGUE TABLE ON CLEAN STREETS FOR 33 COUNCILS IN LONDON

Rank	England	The % of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level	The % of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of litter that fall below an acceptable level
		12	5

1	Merton LB	49	21
2	Hounslow LB	44	15
3	Bromley LB	36	24
4	Waltham Forest LB	33	23
5	Redbridge LB	32	17
6	Hillingdon LB	31	10
7	Ealing LB	25	11
8	Harrow LB	23	19
9	Haringey LB	22	10
10	Wandsworth LB	21	9
11	Sutton LB	21	5
12	Newham LB	19	18
13	Kingston-upon-Thames LB	19	8
14	Greenwich LB	17	11
15	Havering LB	16	10
16	Richmond upon Thames LB	16	5
17	Lambeth LB	15	6
18	Hackney LB	14	11
19	Hammersmith & Fulham LB	14	11
20	Brent LB	14	7
21	Lewisham LB	14	6
22	Bexley LB	13	5
23	Tower Hamlets LB	12	11
24	Southwark LB	12	6
25	Camden LB	12	3
26	Islington LB	10	7
27	Barking & Dagenham LB	10	4
28	Enfield LB	9	10
29	Barnet LB	8	6
30	Westminster LB	5	3
31	Croydon LB	4	11
32	City of London	1	2
33	Kensington & Chelsea LB	0	2

Paul Hayes, GMB Regional Secretary for London speaking at Southport said **“There is an alarmingly high and dangerous level of dirty streets and pavements in far too many places in London. On average the 12% of streets that are officially classified as unacceptable is bad enough but there are 22 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

Contacts: Paul Hayes, GMB Regional Secretary on 07974 251721 or Dave Powell, GMB Senior Organiser on 07710 631349 or GMB Press office: Steve Pryle 07921 289880 and Rose Conroy on 07974 251823 GMB delegates and officers are available for interview via the GMB Press Office

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 6th June to

Wednesday 9th 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

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.