

## PRESS RELEASE

1 of 3 pages

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

**Immediate Release**

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

### **ST HELENS HAD NORTH WEST'S DIRTIEST STREETS: CARLISLE AND ALLERDALE 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 North West's dirtiest streets were in St Helens while the cleanest were in Carlisle and Allerdale 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 St Helens 29% of relevant land and highways assessed had deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level while 13% also had unacceptable levels of litter. (See Note 2 below on definitions and standards). Next in the league were Trafford and South Ribble where 26% of relevant land and highways assessed had deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level. 18% of streets in Trafford, and 6% in South Ribble, also had unacceptable levels of litter.

Carlisle and Allerdale in Cumbria had the cleanest streets in the region. 3% of relevant land and highways assessed in both Carlisle and Allerdale had deposits of detritus that fall 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. 15 councils in the region had streets dirtier than the national average. 15% of Liverpool streets were dirty and as were 7% in Manchester.

The figures for each of the 43 North West councils for 2008/09 are shown in the table below. (See Note 3 for sources).

#### **LEAGUE TABLE ON CLEAN STREETS FOR 43 COUNCILS IN THE NORTH WEST**

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	St Helens MD	29	13
2	Trafford MD	26	18
3	South Ribble DC	26	6
4	Blackpool UA	22	11
5	Vale Royal DC (Former District Council)	21	8
6	Sefton MD	20	15
7	Rossendale DC	19	7
8	Wigan MD	17	14
9	Ribble Valley DC	16	10
10	Liverpool MD	15	15
11	Stockport MD	15	6
12	Preston DC	14	8
13	Congleton DC (Former District Council)	13	5
14	South Lakeland DC	13	5
15	Copeland DC	13	4
16	Warrington UA	12	10
17	Bolton MD	12	7
18	Fylde DC	12	6
19	Macclesfield DC (Former District Council)	12	3
20	Knowsley MD	11	8
21	Oldham MD	11	5
22	Hyndburn DC	11	4
23	Wyre DC	10	8
24	Rochdale MD	10	7
25	Chorley DC	10	6
26	Bury MD	9	10
27	Wirral MD	9	7
28	Tameside MD	9	6
29	Lancaster DC	9	5
30	Ellesmere Port & Neston DC(Former District)	9	3
31	Burnley DC	8	7
32	Barrow-in-Furness DC	8	4
33	West Lancashire DC	8	4
34	Crewe & Nantwich DC (Former District I)	8	2
35	Eden DC	7	1
36	Blackburn with Darwen UA	6	4
37	Halton UA	5	9
38	Manchester MD	5	7
39	Salford MD	5	7
40	Chester DC (Former District Council)	4	4
41	Pendle DC	4	3
42	Allerdale DC	3	4
43	Carlisle DC	3	2

Paul McCarthy, GMB Regional Secretary for the North West 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

Contacts: Paul McCarthy, GMB Regional Secretary on 07740 804040 or Terry Mellor 07970 410905 or Giovanna Holt 07740 804 058 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 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.