

PRESS RELEASE

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Immediate Release

Attention: News Desks, Industrial and Political Correspondents

EPSOM & EWELL HAD SOUTH EAST'S DIRTIEST STREETS: SLOUGH 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 South East's dirtiest streets were in Epsom & Ewell while the cleanest were in Slough 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 Epsom & Ewell **35%** of relevant land and highways assessed had deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level while **6%** also had unacceptable levels of litter. (See Note 2 below on definitions and standards). Next in the league was Eastleigh where **32%** of relevant land and highways assessed had deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level. **18%** of streets in Eastleigh also had unacceptable levels of litter.

Slough had the cleanest streets in the region with no relevant land and highways assessed in as having deposits of detritus or litter 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. 29 councils in the region had streets dirtier than the national average. The percentage of streets, dirty with detritus were 21% in Reading, 16% in Milton Keynes, 15% in Brighton & Hove and Oxford 14%. In Elmbridge 14% of the streets had unacceptable levels of litter.

The figures for each of the 64 South East 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 SOUTH EAST

Rank		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
	England	12	5
1	Epsom & Ewell DC	35	6

2	Eastleigh DC	32	18
3	Chichester DC	32	4
4	Vale of White Horse DC	27	4
5	Basingstoke & Deane DC	24	5
6	Elmbridge DC	23	14
7	New Forest DC	22	4
8	Gosport DC	21	10
9	Reading UA	21	6
10	East Hampshire DC	20	9
11	Hart DC	20	4
12	Waverley DC	17	7
13	Chiltern DC	17	5
14	Shepway DC	17	5
15	Wycombe DC	16	8
16	Fareham DC	16	7
17	Milton Keynes UA	16	4
18	Lewes DC	15	4
19	Dover DC	15	3
20	Horsham DC	15	2
21	Brighton & Hove UA	14	7
22	Oxford DC	14	4
23	Windsor & Maidenhead UA	14	3
24	Spelthorne DC	13	8
25	West Oxfordshire DC	13	6
26	Worthing DC	13	4
27	Adur DC	13	3
28	Aylesbury Vale DC	13	2
29	South Oxfordshire DC	13	2
30	Havant DC	12	10
31	Woking DC	12	6
32	Surrey Heath DC	12	0
33	South Bucks DC	11	4
34	Runnymede DC	10	10
35	Cherwell DC	10	4
36	Mid Sussex DC	10	4
37	Wokingham UA	10	4
38	Guildford DC	9	9
39	Tandridge DC	9	6
40	Swale DC	8	5
41	Thanet DC	7	8
42	Medway Towns UA	7	4
43	Rother DC	7	4
44	Test Valley DC	7	4
45	Gravesham DC	6	5
46	Portsmouth UA	6	5
47	Tonbridge & Malling DC	6	5
48	Bracknell Forest UA	6	2
49	Isle of Wight UA	6	2
50	West Berkshire UA	6	2
51	Maidstone DC	6	0
52	Crawley DC	5	6
53	Dartford DC	5	5
54	Canterbury DC	5	4
55	Winchester DC	5	1
56	Arun DC	4	4
57	Hastings DC	4	4
58	Southampton UA	4	3
59	Wealden DC	4	1
60	Rushmoor DC	3	5
61	Mole Valley DC	2	0

62	Tunbridge Wells DC	2	0
63	Sevenoaks DC	1	0
64	Slough UA	0	0

Richard Ascough, GMB Regional Secretary for the South East 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 29 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.”

Ends

Contacts: Richard Ascough, GMB Regional Secretary on 07710 618904 or Ted Purcell, GMB Senior Organiser on 07866 441656 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.