

PRESS RELEASE

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Immediate Release

Attention: News Desks, Industrial and Political Correspondents

BRADFORD HAD YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE'S DIRTIEST STREETS: SCARBOROUGH 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

Yorkshire & Humberside's dirtiest streets were in Bradford while the cleanest were in Scarborough 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 Bradford **36%** of relevant land and highways assessed had deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level while **19%** also had unacceptable levels of litter. (See Note 2 below on definitions and standards). Next in the league was North Lincolnshire where **36%** of relevant land and highways assessed had deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level. **14%** of streets in North Lincolnshire also had unacceptable levels of litter.

Scarborough had the cleanest streets in the region. **3%** of relevant land and highways assessed in Scarborough 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. 9 councils in the region had streets dirtier than the national average. Amongst those above the national average were Leeds, Doncaster, Sheffield, Rotherham, Hull and Calderdale.

The figures for each of the 20 Yorkshire & Humberside councils for 2008/09 are shown in the table below. (See Note 3 for sources).

LEAGUE TABLE ON CLEAN STREETS FOR 20 COUNCILS IN THE YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE

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	Bradford MD	36	19
2	North Lincolnshire UA	36	14
3	Craven DC	26	4

4	Doncaster MD	20	18
5	Sheffield MD	19	12
6	Rotherham MD	16	10
7	East Riding of Yorkshire UA	16	7
8	Kingston-upon-Hull UA	15	8
9	Calderdale MD	15	2
10	Hambleton DC	12	10
11	Wakefield MD	12	1
12	Leeds MD	11	10
13	York UA	11	9
14	Kirklees MD	9	5
15	Richmondshire DC	8	2
16	Ryedale DC	7	2
17	North East Lincolnshire UA	5	7
18	Barnsley MD	4	3
19	Harrogate DC	4	2
20	Scarborough DC	3	1

Tim Roach, GMB Regional Secretary for Yorkshire & Humberside 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 9 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: Tim Roache, GMB Regional Secretary on 07961 719545 or Neil Derrick, GMB Senior Organiser on 07958 156832 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.