

# Appendix 3 – Benchmarking Hertfordshire

## Taxi/Private Hire Fees – Hertfordshire Comparison Oct 08

There are 103 hackney carriage and 158 private hire drivers in Stevenage. There are 27 drivers licensed to drive both types of vehicle (they pay full price for the first licence and a reduced rate for the second).

There are 100 hackney carriages, 163 private hire vehicles and 27 private hire operator

Stevenage Borough Council offers an annual licence for all licence types. Some authorities offer a 2 or 3 year licence and some grant licences to drive both types of vehicle automatically.

For the purposes of comparison, the table 1 includes the licence fee and knowledge test fee; table 2 includes only the licence fee. Other associated fees such as CRB and DVLA checks have not been included as they are consistent across authorities. Compliance test fees for vehicles have not been included as they are paid directly to the garage used. Where an authority offers only a 2 or 3 year option, this has been calculated pro rata for one year in order to enable a comparison with the Stevenage Borough Council fee structure

table 1

	Drivers
St Albans	178
East Herts	177
Welhat	160
<b>Stevenage</b>	<b>160</b>
Luton	134
Hertsmere	125
Watford	119
North Herts	88.35
Broxbourne	85
Dacorum	82
<b>Average</b>	<b>131</b>

Stevenage is in position 4 out of 10 Hertfordshire authorities. St Albans in position 1 is the most expensive.

The average cost of a driver licence is £131; Stevenage Borough Council charge £29 more than this.

table 2

	Vehicles
St Albans	360
North Herts	273
Welhat	242
Luton	240
East Herts	233
Hertsmere	215
Dacorum	200
Watford	196
<b>Stevenage</b>	<b>180</b>
Broxbourne	135
<b>Average</b>	<b>227</b>

Stevenage is in position 9 out of 10. St Albans is the most expensive.

The average cost of a vehicle licence is £227; Stevenage Borough Council charge £47 less than this.

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Fee structures for private hire operators vary enormously across the authorities compared. Some charge a flat rate regardless of the number of vehicles the operator has, some charge in bands and some charge a fee plus a rate per vehicle.

Table 3 below compares the different rates according to the fee structure that is in place at Stevenage Borough Council.

table 3

	Private Hire Operator			
	20 vehicles max	40 vehicles max	60 vehicles max	over 60 vehicles
Hertsmere	760	1260	1760	£260 + £25 per vehicle
East Herts	474	914	1354	£166 for up to 6 vehicles + £22 per additional vehicle
Luton	360	360	360	360
St Albans	300	300	300	300
Welhat	275	275	275	275
Broxbourne	250	450	650	£50 + £10 per vehicle
Dacorum	200	300	300	300
Stevenage	140 24 in this category	180 0 in this category	220 2 in this category	260 1 in this category
North Herts	109.42	109.42	109.42	109.42
Watford	64	64	64	64
Average	293	421	539	

Stevenage is in position 8 out of 10 authorities; Hertsmere is the most expensive in position 1.

The average fee for an operator with less than 20 vehicles is £293; Stevenage charge £150 less than this. 90% of operators in Stevenage have less than 20 vehicles and most of them are licensed solely because they need to be in order to bid for Herts CC school contracts. The 3 large operators in Stevenage manage approximately 85% of the licensed private hire vehicles.