

Appendix

THE SHIRE COUNTIES AND COMPARATIVE COUNCIL GROUPS

1. Shire County Councils

Bedfordshire	Buckinghamshire	Cambridgeshire
Cheshire	Cornwall	Cumbria
Derbyshire	Devon	Dorset
Durham	East Sussex	Essex
Gloucestershire	Hampshire	Worcestershire
Hertfordshire	Kent	Lancashire
Leicestershire	Lincolnshire	Norfolk
Northamptonshire	Northumberland	North Yorkshire
Nottinghamshire	Oxfordshire	Shropshire
Somerset	Staffordshire	Suffolk
Surrey	Warwickshire	West Sussex
Wiltshire		

2. Fire & Rescue

HM Fire Service Inspectorate puts Hertfordshire into this grouping of Brigades:

Avon	Cheshire	Cleveland
Derbyshire	Essex	Hampshire
Hertfordshire	Humberside	Kent
Lancashire	Leicestershire	Nottinghamshire
South Wales	Staffordshire	Surrey

To allow for meaningful comparison it is necessary for the groups to be sufficiently large to enable measurement against reasonably like authorities. The groupings have been arrived at from a combination of topographical character, structure and population of brigades.

There are other such groupings; one for the metropolitan brigades and one for the smaller and more rural brigades.

3. Education (Children, Schools and Families)

Our "statistical neighbours" ~ a set of Local Education Authorities that Ofsted use to provide a more challenging benchmark because their demographic and socio-economic profiles are similar to Hertfordshire.

Bedfordshire	Cheshire	Essex
Gloucestershire	Worcestershire	Hertfordshire
Kent	Lancashire	Surrey
Warwickshire	West Sussex	