

## **APPENDIX A**

### **SECRETARY OF STATE CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING PROPOSALS**

In deciding which proposal, if any, to implement in an area, the Secretary of State has advised that he will make a balanced judgement, which will include (amongst other considerations) assessing the proposals against the three criteria set out in the statutory guidance accompanying the invitation.

These criteria are:

That a proposal should seek to achieve for the area concerned, the establishment of a single tier of local government, that is the establishment of one or more unitary authorities:

- which are likely to improve local government and service delivery across the area of the proposal, giving greater value for money, generating savings, providing stronger strategic and local leadership, and which are more sustainable structures;
- which command a good deal of local support as assessed in the round overall across the whole area of the proposal; and
- where the area of each unitary authority is a credible geography consisting of one or more existing local government areas with an aggregate population which is either within the range 300,000 to 600,000, or such other figure that, having regard to the circumstances of the authority, including local identity and geography, could be considered substantial.