**Evaluation criteria used for unitary studies**

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| **DCLG advice** | **Districts’ evaluation criteria** | **Grant Thornton evaluation criteria** |
| Better local service delivery | Deliver better public services | Improve local service delivery and outcomes, particularly for the most vulnerable |
| Greater value for money | Provide value for money | Delivering significant cost savings, improved value for money and long term financial stability |
| Significant cost savings | Deliver outcomes in terms of the costs of transition against the efficiency savings the change will generate |
| Stronger and more accountable local leadership | Ensure strong and accountable local leadership and governance | Provide stronger and more accountable strategic and local leadership |
|  | In addition to these tests… it will also be important to analyse whether the proposed options will meet locally defined needs, namely:   * Help to deal with the demographic pressures on adult social care and improve outcomes through integration with health services * Ensure a system for children’s services that delivers a robust approach to child protection and safeguarding * Help support the economic and housing growth being planned for in Local Plans and secure the necessary infrastructure identified in our Devolution Deal proposals * Support the growth of the knowledge economy * Enable development and growth across the area to meet its potential whilst effectively reflecting the different interests of market towns and rural communities * Benefit from potential service synergies from unitary authorities having responsibility for planning and delivering services such as spatial planning, economic development, housing, transport infrastructure, social care and health. | Improve engagement with local communities and empowerment of local areas |