

General Power of Competence

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Local Councils in England were given a “general power of competence” (GPC) in the Localism Act 2011, sections 1–8. Councils no longer need to ask whether they have a specific power to act and this legislation gives eligible councils “*the power to do anything that individuals generally may do*” as long as they don’t break the law.
- 1.2 Eligibility for a council is that:
 - (a) Two-thirds of the total number of Councillors must be elected not co-opted.
 - (b) The Clerk must have recognised sector-specific qualifications.
- 1.3 Renewal of the GPC is necessary at the relevant annual meeting following an election, so it will normally be renewed every four years.

2. Warminster Town Council’s GPC

- 2.1 At the Full Council meeting on 19th November 2012 it was agreed that the Council should adopt and use the GPC as 100 percent of the Councillors are elected members and the Clerk holds the necessary qualifications (Minute 273/12).
- 2.2 Following the local elections in May 2013 it was agreed at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 13th May 2013 that the GPC be renewed (Minute 18/13).
- 2.3 The GPC will be due for renewal at the Annual Meeting to be held on 15th May 2017.