

## 260505 – Item 16 - General Power of Competence

The General Power of Competence (GPC), introduced under the Localism Act 2011, gives eligible parish and town councils the freedom to act in the same way as an individual, provided no other law prohibits the action. This represents a significant shift from the traditional position where councils could only act if a specific statutory power existed.

To use GPC, a council must meet three criteria:

- The Clerk must hold a recognised qualification that includes the GPC module.
- At least two-thirds of councillors must have been elected (not co-opted).
- The Council must formally resolve to adopt the General Power of Competence.

GPC allows the Council to support local initiatives, develop new services, and respond creatively to community needs. However, it must still be exercised lawfully, responsibly, and with proper financial and governance safeguards.

Once a council is eligible to use the General Power of Competence, it must resolve that it meets the statutory conditions, and at each subsequent Annual Meeting it must resolve that it still meets the criteria.