

General Power of Competence (GPC)

GPC was introduced in March 2012¹ and replaces the power of well-being². It gives local councils more freedom to find new ways to meet the needs of local communities by giving them the power to 'do anything that individuals generally do' if it is legal.

Criteria for eligibility³

- The Clerk must hold a relevant qualification⁴ and have completed training on how to use GPC.
- Two thirds of members of the council must have stood for and been elected.
- The council must resolve at any meeting of the council that it meets the criteria for GPC in the first instance. Subsequently a resolution at the annual meeting⁵ after every ordinary election (every 4 years) confirms continued eligibility.

¹ Localism Act 2011 (Consequential Amendments) Order 2012

² Local Government Act 2000

³ General Power of Competence Prescribed Order 2012.

⁴ Certificate in local Council Administration, the Certificate of Higher Education in Local Policy, the Certificate of Higher Education in Local Council Administration or the first level of the foundation degree in Community Engagement and Governance (or successor qualifications) awarded by the University of Gloucestershire

⁵ LGA 1972 Schedule 12 para 7 (1)