

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 and
 - 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 were elected members and the Clerk held 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 FC/18/13).
- 2.3 The GPC was renewed at the Annual Meeting held on 15th May 2017. (Minute FC/17/019)
- 2.4 The GPC was renewed at the Annual Meeting held on 17th May 2021. (Minute FC/21/023)
- 2.5 The GPC was renewed at the Annual Meeting held on 12th May 2025. (Minute FC/25/025)