

General Power of Competence

The Localism Act 2011 replaced the power of well being with the General Power of Competence.

The General Power of Competence (GPC) is intended to give local authorities (including parish and town councils) wider powers to deliver more for their communities. The GPC will allow a council to do anything that individuals generally may do, except where other aspects of law may forbid them from doing. For example put someone in prison. It is intended to relieve councils of the need to find specific statutory powers to authorise their activities.

Councils not being eligible to make use of the GPC can only do those things which they are specifically empowered to do by statute. It is envisaged this power will provide parish and town councils with a greater freedom to act.