

The General Power of Competence (GPoC) Wales

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (the Act 2021): Part 2 allows eligible town and community councils (local councils) in Wales to resolve eligibility and then to adopt the General Power of competence (GPoC).

The General Power of Competence (GPoC) in Wales gives eligible community and town councils the broad power to do anything an individual can lawfully do, acting as a "power of first resort". Eligibility is defined by three criteria:

- At least two-thirds (2/3) of the total number of council members must have been declared elected (standing for election, whether contested or unopposed), rather than being filled via co-option or appointment.
- The clerk to the council must hold a specific, named professional qualification or certification specified by Welsh Ministers regulations.
- The council must confirm that the last two sets of accounts is unqualified in the opinion of the Auditor General for Wales and that the most recent set of accounts was received by the council during the period of 12 months ending on the day the council will (if it passes a resolution) become an eligible community council.

Magor with Undy Town Council satisfies the criteria insofar that:

1. More than 2/3 of the Council of 10 are elected members.
2. The Clerk, William Lewis achieved the CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) qualification on 29th March 2026.
3. Audit Accounts from the Auditor General for Wales received in August 2026 confirm that the last three sets of accounts are recorded as 'unqualified'.

It is not necessary to wait for an annual meeting to pass the initial resolution as under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, a council can formally resolve itself eligible to exercise the General Power of Competence (GPoC) at **any full meeting** of the council, including an ordinary meeting.

Once adopted, the council must explicitly revisit and reaffirm that it still meets the criteria by passing a new resolution at every subsequent "relevant" annual meeting (the annual meeting held immediately after ordinary council elections).