



Localism Act 2011

2011 CHAPTER 20

PART 1

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL POWERS OF AUTHORITIES

1 Local authority's general power of competence

- (1) A local authority has power to do anything that individuals generally may do.
- (2) Subsection (1) applies to things that an individual may do even though they are in nature, extent or otherwise—
 - (a) unlike anything the authority may do apart from subsection (1), or
 - (b) unlike anything that other public bodies may do.
- (3) In this section “individual” means an individual with full capacity.
- (4) Where subsection (1) confers power on the authority to do something, it confers power (subject to sections 2 to 4) to do it in any way whatever, including—
 - (a) power to do it anywhere in the United Kingdom or elsewhere,
 - (b) power to do it for a commercial purpose or otherwise for a charge, or without charge, and
 - (c) power to do it for, or otherwise than for, the benefit of the authority, its area or persons resident or present in its area.
- (5) The generality of the power conferred by subsection (1) (“the general power”) is not limited by the existence of any other power of the authority which (to any extent) overlaps the general power.
- (6) Any such other power is not limited by the existence of the general power (but see section 5(2)).

Changes to legislation: Localism Act 2011, Section 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 24 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

(7) Schedule 1 (consequential amendments) has effect.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Pt. 1 Ch. 1 modified (9.2.2017) by [The West of England Combined Authority Order 2017 \(S.I. 2017/126\)](#), arts. 1(3), **24**
- C2** S. 1 functions made exercisable concurrently (1.4.2014) by [The Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, St Helens, Sefton and Wirral Combined Authority Order 2014 \(S.I. 2014/865\)](#), art. 1, **Sch. 2 para. 1** (with art. 8(4))
- C3** S. 1 functions made exercisable concurrently (1.4.2014) by [The Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Combined Authority Order 2014 \(S.I. 2014/863\)](#), art. 1, **Sch. 2 para. 1**
- C4** S. 1 functions made exercisable concurrently (1.4.2014) by [The West Yorkshire Combined Authority Order 2014 \(S.I. 2014/864\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 1**
- C5** S. 1 functions made exercisable concurrently (1.4.2016) by [The Tees Valley Combined Authority Order 2016 \(S.I. 2016/449\)](#), arts. 1(a), 7, **Sch. 2 para. 1**
- C6** S. 1 functions made exercisable concurrently (17.6.2016) by [The West Midlands Combined Authority Order 2016 \(S.I. 2016/653\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 1**
- C7** S. 1 functions made exercisable concurrently (9.2.2017) by [The West of England Combined Authority Order 2017 \(S.I. 2017/126\)](#), arts. 1(3), 25(1), **Sch. 5 para. 1**
- C8** S. 1 functions made exercisable concurrently (2.11.2018) by [The Newcastle Upon Tyne, North Tyneside and Northumberland Combined Authority \(Establishment and Functions\) Order 2018 \(S.I. 2018/1133\)](#), arts. 1, **13** (with art. 28)
- C9** S. 1: functions for specified purposes made exercisable concurrently (20.12.2023) by [The York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority Order 2023 \(S.I. 2023/1432\)](#), arts. 1(2), **26(6)-(8)**

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 1(1)-(6) in force at 18.2.2012 by [S.I. 2012/411](#), **art. 2(a)**
- I2** S. 1(7) in force at 4.4.2012 by [S.I. 2012/1008](#), **art. 2(a)** (with arts. 7, 8)

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 1 functions made exercisable by [S.I. 2024/402 art. 48\(5\)](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 158(8)-(9B) substituted for s. 158(8)(9) by [2016 c. 22 s. 121\(2\)\(e\)](#)
- s. 202(3A) inserted by [2023 c. 55 s. 176\(2\)](#)