



Briefing Note – Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)

Date 23 March 2026
Prepared by Town Clerk

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. Recent devolution deals will give enhanced regeneration and land assembly powers — including the ability to promote and exercise Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) to combined authorities.
- 1.2. This is relevant to the Town Council due to the number of potential regeneration sites in the town which are currently derelict or vacant land.

2. NALC TOPIC NOTE

- 2.1. The attached NALC topic note (Appendix A), gives a broadbrush outline of CPO in the context off Town Councils.

3. LEGISLATION

- 3.1. Procedural requirements are set out the Acquisition of Land Act 1981¹
- 3.2. CPO's are allowed for planning purposes under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990²
- 3.3. The CPO compensation scheme and procurement procedures are outlined in the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965.³
- 3.4. There is now power in legislation for the Town Council itself to undertake the CPO process.

4. APPENDICES

- 4.1. Appendix A - NALC topic note 82 – Compulsory Purchase Orders

¹ [Acquisition of Land Act 1981](#)

² [Town and Country Planning Act 1990](#)

³ [Compulsory Purchase Act 1965](#)