

## **PART 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **The Council's Constitution**

East Cambridgeshire District Council has a constitution which sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures which are followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable. Some of these processes are required by the law, while others are a matter for the Council to choose.

The Constitution is divided into 6 Parts. The 12 Articles in Part 2 set out the basic rules governing the Council's business. These are supplemented by procedures and codes of practice.

#### **What's in the Constitution?**

Article 1: sets out the Council's overall purpose and its strategic objectives.

Articles 2-12: explains the rights of citizens and how the key parts of the Council operate. The Council is composed of Councillors elected every four years. The overriding duty of Councillors is to the whole community, but they have a special duty to their constituents, including those who did not vote for them.

When Councillors take up office, they have to agree to follow a Code of Conduct to ensure high standards in the way they undertake their duties. The Monitoring Officer will provide/arrange training and provide advice to Members on the Code of Conduct.

#### **Composition of the Council**

The Council is composed of 28 Councillors.

The current political make-up of the Council [**as at March 2020<sup>1</sup>**] is:

Conservative Group – 15  
Liberal Democratic Group – 11  
Independent Group – 2

Attached:

Appendix 1 - Full list of the current Councillors

Appendix 2 - Councillors by Ward

Appendix 3 - Village/Towns District Ward List