



## **WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY**

### **1. About this policy**

- 1.1 We are committed to conducting our business with honesty and integrity and we expect all staff to maintain high standards. We encourage staff to report suspected wrongdoing as soon as possible.
- 1.2 This policy does not form part of any employee's contract of employment and we may amend it at any time.

### **2. Who is covered by the policy?**

- 2.1 This policy applies to all individuals working at all levels of the organisation, including senior managers, officers, directors, employees, consultants, contractors, trainees, homeworkers, part-time and fixed-term workers, casual and agency staff and volunteers (collectively referred to as staff in this policy).

### **3. What is whistleblowing?**

- 3.1 Whistleblowing is the reporting of suspected wrongdoing or dangers in relation to our activities. This includes bribery, fraud or other criminal activity, miscarriages of justice, health and safety risks, damage to the environment and any breach of legal or professional obligations specific to this workplace.

### **4. How to raise a concern**

- 4.1 We hope that in many cases you will be able to raise any concerns with your manager. However, where you prefer not to raise it with your manager for any reason, you should contact the Clerk or Chairman of the personnel committee. Contact details are at the end of this policy.
- 4.2 We will arrange a meeting with you as soon as possible to discuss your concern. You may bring a colleague or union representative to any meetings under this policy. Your companion must respect the confidentiality of your disclosure and any subsequent investigation.

## **5. Confidentiality**

- 5.1 We hope that staff will feel able to voice whistleblowing concerns openly under this policy. Completely anonymous disclosures are difficult to investigate. If you want to raise your concern confidentially, we will make every effort to keep your identity secret and only reveal it where necessary to those involved in investigating your concern.

## **6. External disclosures**

- 6.1 The aim of this policy is to provide an internal mechanism for reporting, investigating and remedying any wrongdoing in the workplace. In most cases you should not find it necessary to alert anyone externally.
- 6.2 The law recognises that in some circumstances it may be appropriate for you to report your concerns to an external body, such as a regulator. We strongly encourage you to seek advice before reporting a concern to anyone external. Public Concern at Work operates a confidential helpline. Their contact details are at the end of this policy.

## **7. Protection and support for whistleblowers**

- 7.1 We aim to encourage openness and will support staff who raise genuine concerns under this policy, even if they turn out to be mistaken.
- 7.2 Staff must not suffer any detrimental treatment as a result of raising a genuine concern. If you believe that you have suffered any such treatment, you should inform the Whistleblowing Officer OR Managing Director immediately. If the matter is not remedied, you should raise it formally using our Grievance Procedure.
- 7.2 Staff must not threaten or retaliate against whistleblowers in any way. If you are involved in such conduct you may be subject to disciplinary action. In some cases, the whistleblower could have a right to sue you personally for compensation in an employment tribunal.
- 7.3 If we conclude that a whistleblower has made false allegations maliciously or with a view to personal gain, the whistleblower may be subject to disciplinary action.

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## Contacts

Clerk	Name: Dena Oxley  Telephone: 01371 831952  or 07938 587867  E-mail: clerk@thaxted-pc.gov.uk
Personnel Committee Chair	Name: Cllr Victoria Knight  Telephone: 07853 883770  E-mail: victoria@thaxted-pc.gov.uk
Protect  (Independent whistleblowing charity)	Helpline: 020 3117 2520  Website:  <a href="https://protect-advice.org.uk">https://protect-advice.org.uk</a>