

Policy & Resources Committee - For Information

Date:	2 August 2016
Title:	CCTV
Purpose of the Report:	To provide a summary report for Q1 2016-17
Contact Officer:	Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager

Background

This report is an extract from the CCTV Report received from South Oxfordshire District Council detailing the effectiveness of CCTV in deterring crime within the four towns in the district. This summary relates to the information for Thame. A full copy of the report can be emailed to Members on request.

Summary

Across South Oxfordshire, CCTV operators supported 492 incidents during the first quarter of 2016 – 17 (April – September 2016).

The operators also produced 32 evidence packs for possible court proceedings, carried out 14 reviews of CCTV footage (a review is undertaken as a result of a written request) and supported 29 arrests.

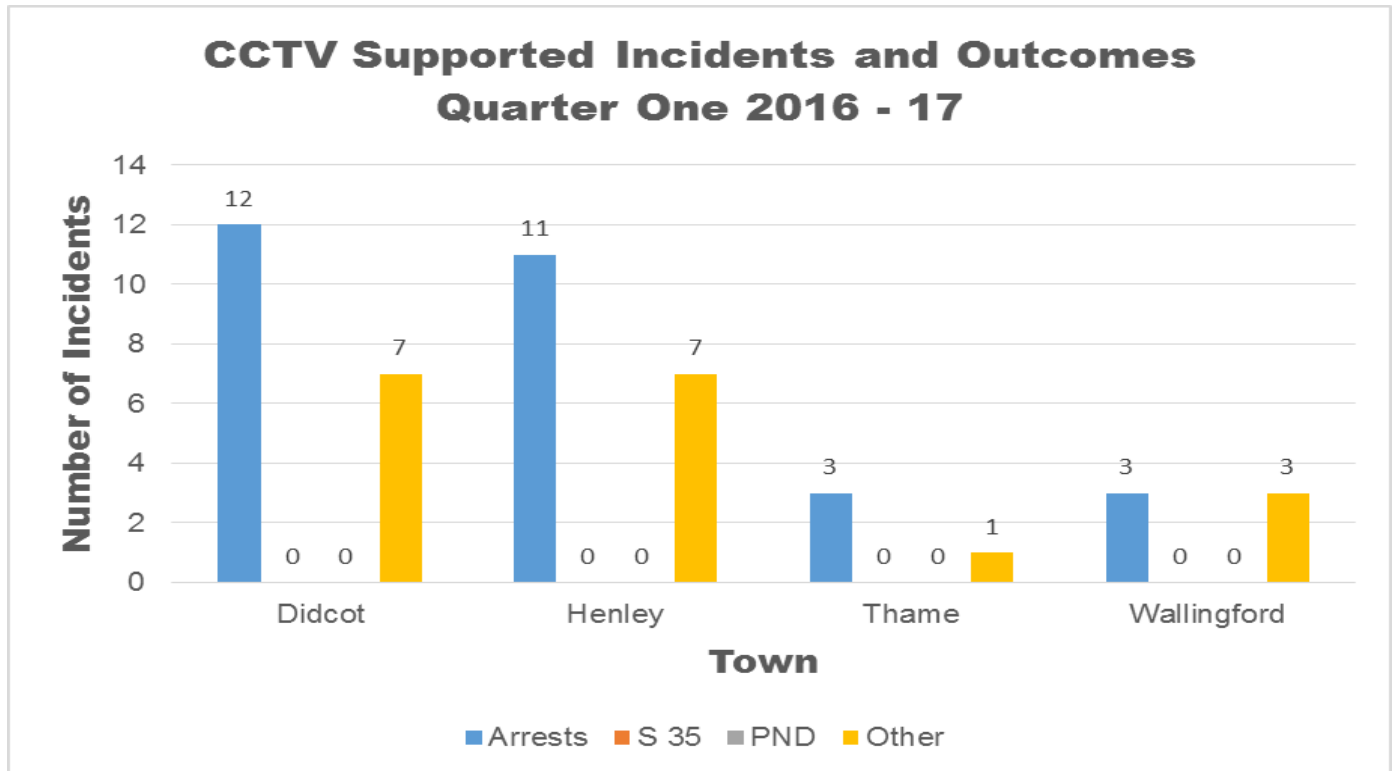
Thame Case Study Information

The police control centre asked our operator to monitor two men. They had been spoken to by officers because of a previous incident and had been advised to move out of the town centre. Our operator was able to locate the men, from descriptions given, and monitor their progress. Once satisfied that the males had left the town centre and had moved out of camera view for some time, our operator updated the police control centre.

Our operator heard over the police radio, reports of a vehicle that had crashed into a house on one of the streets leading off the town centre. They were able to review the relevant camera footage and identify the vehicle in question from the description given over the police radio. The information was passed on to near-by officers who were able to locate the vehicle close to its last sighting and appropriate investigations were carried out.

Information came in via the police radio, of an extremely intoxicated man outside a local town centre pub. From the description given, our operator was able to locate him and via police radio, keep officers updated as they made their way. On arrival, the officers assessed the man's capabilities and ensured that he got a taxi to his home address.

Total Number of Incidents Supported Across the District				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2016/17	492			
2015/16	644	572	763	801
2014/15	497	612	692	604
2013/14	521	479	564	478
2012/13	383	380	445	379
2011/12	547	492	532	413



Incidents broken down between the Towns:-

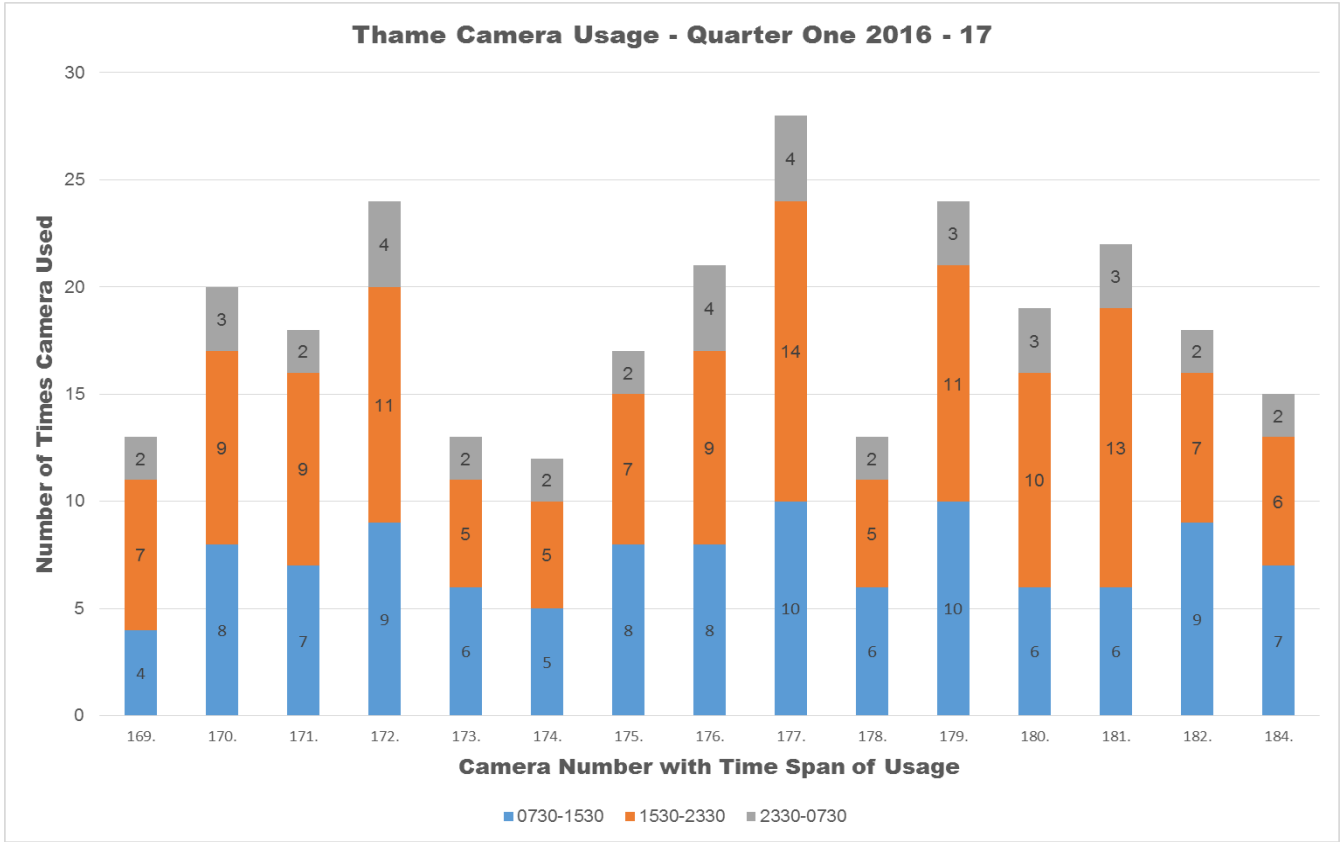
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17			
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Didcot	603	436	569	701	1114	209			
Henley	702	611	747	847	805	146			
Thame	346	257	376	455	375	46			
Wallingford	333	283	350	402	486	91			
District Total	1984	1587	2042	2405	2780	492			

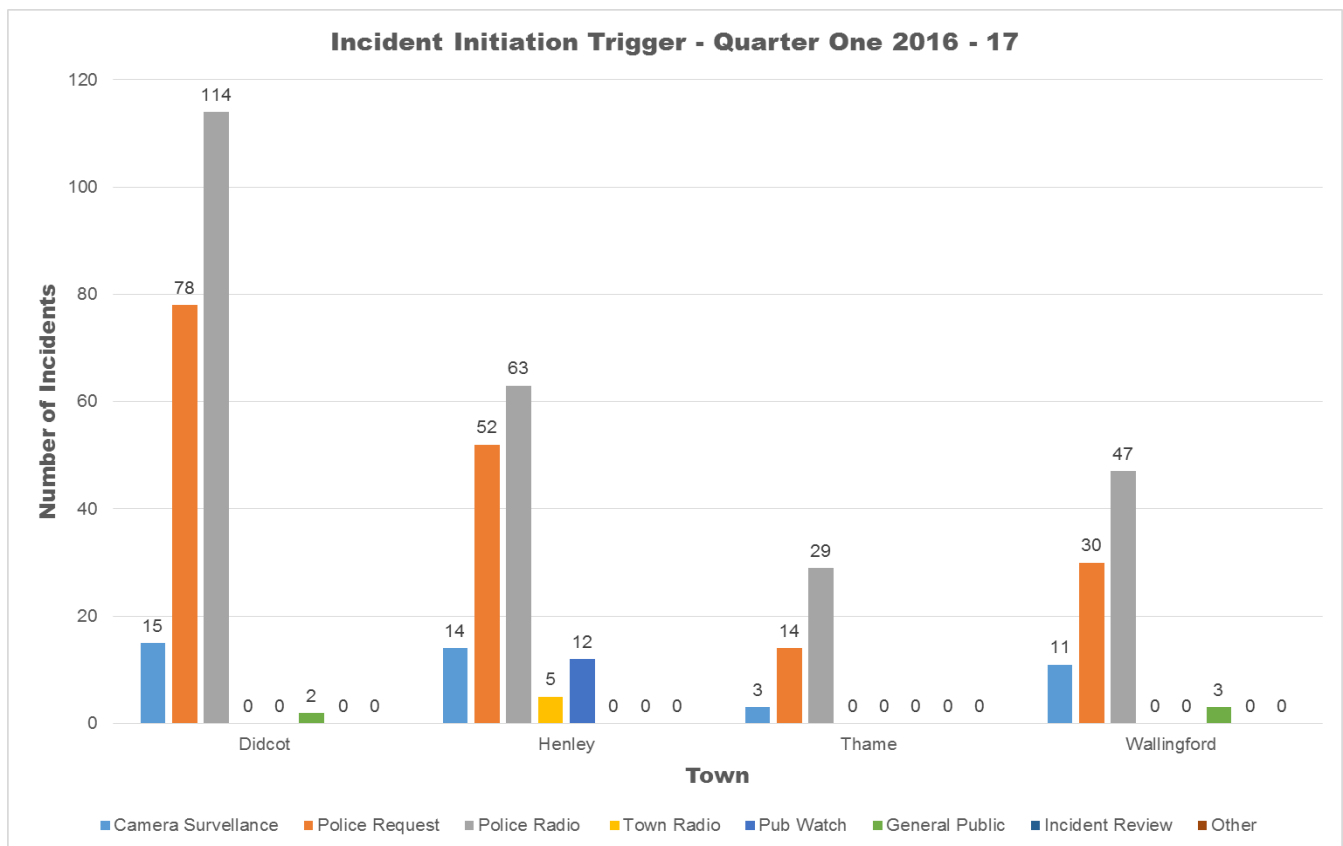
Camera Usage

The following charts show camera usage for each town. These indicate the number of times that individual cameras were deployed in recorded, monitored events.

The number of times that each camera was used has been divided into three sections, covering a twenty four hour period.

It is worth noting that for the period 23:30 – 07:30, the vast majority of camera usage occurred during the 23:30 – 03:30 time slot.





Reviews and evidence packs

When not tasked by police, the operators patrol all the cameras and focus on ‘hotspot’ areas. All cameras are recording 24 hours a day, seven days a week and are set in ‘default’ positions which are agreed with the police as the areas most likely to experience problems.

CCTV operators and the CCTV supervisor also respond to requests from members of the public and third parties under Data Protection Legislation and Subject Access Requests. The most common request is to examine car park or road cameras for evidence of ‘non- stop road traffic collisions’ in which the complainant’s car has been damaged. All such requests are actioned and replies given. These are not included in the data below.

The chart on the next page shows the number of evidence packs the CCTV operators put together and the number of evidence reviews they undertook, as a result of formal written requests.

The evidence packs are the recordings and statements which the CCTV operators produce for police, solicitors and the Crown Prosecution Service.

Activity that monitors past footage, but does NOT result in an evidence pack being produced, is termed ‘a review’. This may be, for example, that the footage does not show an event clearly enough to warrant making a permanent DVD copy for evidential use.

One of the greatest advantages of CCTV footage is in obtaining a guilty plea at the early interview stage. For many offences this early admission is due to the offence being captured clearly on camera and saves the expense of full trial at either magistrates or crown court.

